

FILED

2014 DEC -8 PM 2:30

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF YUMA

YNN FAZZ  
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT  
YUMA ARIZONA 85364

IN THE MATTER OF: ) Administrative Order  
)  
ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL )  
MENTAL HEALTH COURT ) No. 2014-20  
)

WHEREAS Superior Court in Yuma County established a Mental Health Court in April, 2013 to supervise a category of offenders with mental illness who are on probation, including those that have been diagnosed with serious mental illness (SMI); and

WHEREAS, the courts of limited jurisdiction in Yuma County have jurisdiction over many cases wherein the offenders have mental illness, including offenders who have been diagnosed with serious mental illness (SMI); and

WHEREAS, Arizona Revised Statutes A.R.S. § 22-601 and §22-602 provide in part that the Presiding Judge of Superior Court in each county may establish a Regional Mental Health Court to adjudicate cases (including pre conviction and post conviction) filed the Superior Court, Justice Court and Municipal Courts in the county; and

WHEREAS, the resources of the criminal justice partners and the courts are limited in their ability to supervise cases involving offenders with mental illness, including offenders who have been diagnosed with serious mental illness (SMI), absent specific processes and procedures that address the treatment and continuity of care for mentally ill offenders; and

WHEREAS Superior Court in Yuma County has previously established procedures that address the continuing supervision of the participant/offender criminal case and the case management of the participant/offenders of Mental Health Court;


1 WHEREAS the Superior Court has now established the necessary eligibility criteria for  
2 the Superior court and limited jurisdiction courts to refer cases to the Superior Court.

3 **IT IS ORDERED** that the Yuma County Regional Mental Health Court shall be  
4 established effective January 1, 2015 to include eligible cases referred to it by Superior Court,  
5 Justice Court Precincts 1, 2 and 3 and Yuma Municipal Courts in Yuma County. Cases referred  
6 to the Regional Mental Health Court from other municipal courts in Yuma County will be  
7 eligible for supervision and adjudication at the discretion of the Regional Mental Health Court  
8 judge.

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10 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the originating Justice court or Municipal Court shall  
11 maintain jurisdiction of a case referred to the Regional Mental Health Court.

12 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the assigned judge for the Regional Mental Health  
13 Court shall be Commissioner/Judge Pro Tempore Lisa Bleich who will serve as the assigned  
14 judge at the pleasure of Presiding Judge.

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16 Dated: 8<sup>th</sup>, December, 2014

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20 JOHN N. NELSON  
21 Presiding Judge  
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1       **Copies to:**

2       Hon. John N. Nelson  
3       Hon. David M. Haws  
4       Hon. John Paul Plante  
5       Hon. Mark Wayne Reeves  
6       Hon. Larry Kenworthy  
7       Hon. Maria Elena Cruz  
8       Hon. Kathryn Stocking-Tate  
9       Hon. Lisa W. Bleich  
10      Hon. Stephen J. Rouff  
11      Hon. Lynn Fazz, Clerk of the Superior Court  
12      Hon. Jon Smith, Yuma County Attorney  
13      Robert Pickels, Yuma County Administrator  
14      Margaret C. Guidero, Court Administrator  
15      Kathleen M. Schaben, Trial Court Administrator  
16      Sandi Hoppough, Chief Adult Probation Officer  
17      Tim Hardy, Director of Juvenile Court Services  
18      Sherri L. Williams, Caseflow Manager  
19      Michael Breeze, Yuma County Public Defender  
20      Jose de la Vara, Yuma County Legal Defender  
21      Shannon Gunderman, Conflict Administrator  
22      Yuma County Bar Association  
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